

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 PM-05
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R 081648Z JUN 78
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2126
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 1552

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV MILI VN CU CH UR
SUBJ: CUBANS DOWNPLAY SIGNIFICANCE OF RECENT MEETINGS
WITH VIETNAMESE

REF: HAVANA 1533 AND PREVIOUS

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS DIRECTOR OF UN POLITICAL
AFFAIRS MARTA JIMENEZ, JUNE 7, CLAIMED THAT RECENT CUBAN MEETINGS
WITH VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR IN HAVANA (REFTELS) WERE PART OF
PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS CARRIED ON WITH HANOI TO COORDINATE
CUBAN AND VIETNAMESE POLICIES - POLICIES WHICH SHE DESCRIBED AS
"ALMOST IDENTICAL". MISS JIMENEZ (WHO WAS OBSERVED PARTICIPATING
IN MEETINGS) ASSERTED THAT, TO HER KNOWLEDGE, NO NEW SPECIAL UN
OR OTHER POLITICAL ACTION IS BEING PREPARED IN CONNECTION WITH
VIETNAMESE-CHINESE OR VIETNAMESE-KAMPUCHEA QUARRELS. SHE RULED
OUT ANY POSSIBLE UN SECURITY COUNCIL ACTIONS BECAUSE OF CHINESE
OBJECTIONS.

2. CUBAN VICE-MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS PELEGRIN
TORRAS (WHO HANDLES ASIA), JUNE 7, ALSO CLAIMED THAT NO NEW
CUBAN POLITICAL ACTIONS WITH REGARD TO CHINA OR KAMPUCHEA
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APPEARED NECESSARY.

3. COMMENT: NEITHER MISS JIMENEZ NOR TORRAS POINTED TO
PARTICIPATION OF SOVIETS IN CUBAN-VIETNAMESE TALKS (SEE
HAVANA 1489). DESPITE THEIR ASSURANCES THAT NO NEW MOVES
FROM CUBAN SIE ARE ANTICIPATED, WE NOTE THAT GRANAMA,
JUNE 8, CARRIES EXTRAORDINARILY HEAVY VIETNAMESE COVERAGE-

WITH ONE-THIRD PAGE DEVOTED TO EDITORIAL ON VIETNAM'S RIGHT TO LIVE IN PEACE WITHOUT KAMPUCHEAN AGGRESSIONS. IN ADDITION, GRANMA SEPARATELY REPORTS ARREST OF "CRIMINAL BANK" OF ETHNIC CHINESE IN VIETNAM AND VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTRY REPLY TO MAY 15 KAMPUCHEA NOTE ON BORDER QUESTION. VIETNAMESE REPLY REPORTEDLY REITERATES HANOI'S FEBRUARY 5 PROPOSAL - IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF ALL MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND HOSTILE ACTS AND WITHDRAWAL OF ARMED FORCES FIVE KILOMETERS FROM BORDER. VIETNAMESE ALSO CALL FOR MEETING IN HANOI, PHNOM PENH OR ON BORDER TO DISCUSS TREATY REAFFIRMING SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF OTHER, AND NON-USE OF FORCE AND NON-INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
GLASSMAN

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